

Docket No.: BAKRAN
Serial No.: 10/698,008

REMARKS

The last Office Action of August 27, 2004 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration of the instant application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, and 5-8 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended. No claims have been canceled or added. No fee is due.

Claims 1 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,205,040 to Teichmann.

Claims 2 and 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Teichmann in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,005,787 to Mizukoshi.

Claims 5 and 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Teichmann in view of Yuan et al., cited in applicant's IDS.

Record is also made of a telephone interview between applicant's representative and the Examiner which took place on November 9, 2004. The Examiner is thanked for his help and assistance as well as for the courtesies extended to Counsel at that time. During the course of the interview the present application was extensively discussed, and as a result, applicant now submits this amendment to place the application in formal condition for allowance.

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 6 by limiting the upper number of circuit elements in the recited n-point converter circuit. More specifically, claims 1 and 6 have been amended to set forth the arrangement of at most two converter valves for each converter phase electrically connected in series at corresponding

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valve connection points, with each converter valve having a maximum number of turn-off semiconductor switches and a maximum number of capacitors, as well as a maximum number of cross-arms. The amended claims have been carefully drafted in conformance with MPEP 2111.03.

Support for the converter circuit recited in claim 1 can be found, for example, in the specification in paragraphs [0026] and [0027] for a three-point converter circuit (depicted in Fig. 1) and in paragraphs [0031] and [0032] for a four-point converter circuit (depicted in Fig. 3). Support for the converter circuit recited in claim 6 can be found, for example, in the specification in paragraph [0038] for a four-point converter circuit (depicted in Fig. 4) and in paragraph [0039] for a five-point converter circuit (depicted in Fig. 5).

The Examiner agreed that the subject matter of the present invention is distinguishable over the applied prior art, provided claims 1 and 6 includes language that limits the upper number of circuitry elements in the recited n-point converter circuit. Reference is also made to page 3, paragraph 5 of the recent office action. As a result, applicants now submit this amendment to place the application in formal condition for allowance.

In view of the above presented remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all claims on file should be considered patentably differentiated over the art and should be allowed.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

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Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully requested that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner feels that it might be helpful in advancing this case by calling the undersigned, applicant would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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